



Cooter Junior-Senior High School

District: Cooter R-IV Schools

Building Enrollment: 157

Grade Range: 7-12



Building Principal: Mr. Frank Killian
Address: 1867 State Highway E
Cooter, Missouri 63838-0218
Phone: 573-695-4972
Fax: 573-695-3073
E-mail: fkillian.chs@cooter.k12.mo.us
Website: <http://cooter.k12.mo.us>

A Snapshot of Cooter Junior-Senior High School...

Cooter Junior-Senior High School is a three-story schoolhouse tucked into the southeastern corner of the Missouri bootheel. The community of Cooter is surrounded by beautiful landscape, bordered by the mighty Mississippi River on the east, and snow-white cotton farms as far as the eye can see in every other direction. Nearby Reelfoot Lake, formed when the Mississippi River flowed backwards, is home to the area's best catfish restaurants. Cooter Junior-Senior High School's public marquee is a landmark, promoting school and community events.

Outside Cooter Junior-Senior High School, the principal starts the school day greeting each student and staff member as they enter the building. Within the walls of the schoolhouse, veteran administrators and an award-winning staff carry out a shared vision of high expectations. Every employee of the school participates actively in the teaching process, exemplifying the same high standard of ethical and moral character. Students thrive in an environment of respect, responsibility and honesty.

Cooter Junior-Senior High School's Mission: "Cooter Junior-Senior High School will assist all students in finding their interests and capabilities and to further develop those interests and capabilities to the maximum use of their potential as successful citizens of the 21st century."

Educating the Whole Child

Cooter Junior-Senior High School endeavors to nurture and inspire the whole child with life-long learning opportunities. A learning culture at Cooter models and stimulates life-long learning for students, families, staff, and the community. Parents and community members are actively involved in the learning process, serving on committees that shape the future direction of the school. Staff participates in ongoing professional development activities to improve data-driven decision making, instruction, and assessment toward the goal of improving student achievement.

"Cooter Junior-Senior High School recognizes that the community is the school."

Students have many opportunities to pursue their interests and develop their talents. The school's academic, business and athletic teams display many trophies won while competing at the district and state levels. The arts and ingenuity are alive and well at Cooter Junior-Senior High School, as well. Cooter's marching band, the first to use bass guitars and amplifiers instead of tubas, has won every competition it has entered for several years. The school's art teacher uses ceiling tiles as a canvas for students to paint, and their artwork adorns each ceiling. Students have the opportunity to develop their own pictures in one of the few darkrooms in the state. Over 90 percent of Cooter's students are involved in co-curricular activities such as Future Business Leaders of America, Foreign Language Club, Academic Team, Jazz Band, and student athletics. Both within and outside the classroom, Cooter Junior-Senior High School students demonstrate excellence.

Motivating Students to Achieve

Building upon one common factor, the belief in "doing what is best for the kids," Cooter Junior-Senior High School's staff, under the guidance of the mathematics and English department chairpersons, makes tremendous efforts to encourage students to achieve at a high level. The school's staff and administrators, along with a strong school board and a supportive community, have developed a rigorous curriculum and provided necessary instructional resources to ensure that students are prepared to become successful citizens. Curriculum in all core content areas is based on state standards, benchmarks, and grade-level expectations.

"One of the successes of curriculum at Cooter Junior-Senior High School is that resources are readily available and administrative support for curriculum development, evaluation, and revision is provided."

A multifaceted English curriculum focuses on developing vocabulary and writing techniques, and enables students to apply literature to their lives to improve communication skills. The mathematics curriculum centers on mathematical reasoning, problem solving skills, formulation of problems, data analysis, and the understanding of grammatically structured problems. Social studies coursework allows students to analyze, explore and develop an appreciation for the cultural diversity of their world. A sequence of science courses focuses on the scientific point of view, engaging students in observing, predicting, experimenting and communicating their findings. A variety of elective courses foster students' excitement about learning, as well as encouraging higher order thinking and problem-solving, ultimately improving student achievement.

In all areas of the curriculum, Cooter Junior-Senior High School's teachers employ multiple teaching methods to identify and understand students' strengths and needs. Cross-curriculum units allow staff members to work as a team to impact greater numbers of students. Cooperative learning and problem-solving opportunities encourage students to work collaboratively and to think critically about real-life scenarios. The work ethic of Cooter's staff has led to exponential growth of student enrollment in college courses, increased ACT scores, and a larger, more positive student population.

Nourishing Character Development

At Cooter Junior-Senior High School, creating an atmosphere that nourishes character development is an important focus. A comprehensive guidance program brings character education relating to respect, honesty, and responsibility into the classroom. Students also assume an active role at school functions and are encouraged to experience the spirit of volunteering. Cooter Junior-Senior High School students' character development through community involvement has an added benefit of creating an ongoing reciprocal relationship between the school and the community. Students, parents, staff and community members have developed a rapport that positively impacts both the school and the community. When one grows and prospers, both grow and prosper.

Gold Star Practices – What’s Working at Cooter Junior-Senior High School

- ★ *Communicating data regarding student performance is key to the ongoing success at Cooter. Guidance counselors and administrators make personal phone calls to parents regarding student progress.*
- ★ *All students must enroll in an extensive literature and grammar sequence before taking language arts electives.*
- ★ *One inservice during the year is designed to help teachers work with ESL migrant children who will attend the school during the cotton harvest.*

Cooter Junior-Senior High School creates an environment that encourages students to explore their talents and interests and to pursue life-long learning opportunities.